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In the United States Patent and Trademark Office

Serial Number: 09/081,872
Appn. Filed: 05/20/98
Applicant(s):   John H. Messing
Appn. Title: Electronic Signature Program
Examiner: Douglas J. Meislahn
Group Art Unit: 2767

June 5, 2003

Tucson, Arizona

Preliminary Amendment F

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, District of Columbia 20231

Sir:

This is a revived application after unintentional abandonment.

Please make the following changes.

Specification: Please substitute the accompanying Second Substitute Specification for the Specification on file. A Second Substitute Specification Mark-up and a statement regarding no new matter are also enclosed

Claims: Please cancel all claims of record and substitute new claims 79-98 as follows:

79. A method for protecting an asymmetric private key for signing consisting of the following steps:

    a. a first encryption step whereby a message digest of data to be signed is asymmetrically encrypted;

    b. a second encryption step whereby the value of the first encryption step is encrypted using a symmetric key.

80. The method of claim 79 whereby the symmetric key is derived from a password or seed consisting one or a plurality of the following: